

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to their representative during the telephone conversations of September 16, 2004 and September 24, 2004. During these conversations, the Examiner requested Applicants' authorization to amend claims 17 and 31 in an Examiner's Amendment. Claims 17 and 31 are amended herein in accordance with the proposed changes discussed in the two telephone conversations.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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